item which appeared in the Indian Post dated 24th June, 1988 under the caption "Doctors cashing in on AIDS scare"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to check such practices by the doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Government has seen the news-item appeared in 'Indian Post' dated 24-6-1988.

(b) Government of India in collaboration with ICMR and State health authorities, have established a nation-wide network of Reference|Surveillance centres for performing serological screening for HIV antibodies among high risk groups and persons with symptoms and signs suggestive of HIV infection. These centres perform the tests without any charge.

Irregularities in Commission Scheme for Sales agents of Air India

1946. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious irregularities in Air India Commission Scheme for its general sales agents;

(b) whether it is a fact that this scheme was beset with dubious deals; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to remove such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) Appointment of General Sales Agents by airlines is an industrial practice which Air India also follows. It is not correct to say that appointment of GSA by Air India is beset with dubious deals. At times there are differences due to the interpretation of the clauses of the Agreement. Air India follows the laid down procedure both for approving the necessity of appointing and for the selection of GSAs. In the air transport market which is highly competitive, other airlines resort to various schemes to attract traffic and Air India also has to appoint GSAs to retain its share of the market. There was a case of the GSA of Air India in London viz. M/s. Hindustan Travel Services where certain guidelines regarding the payment of incentive commission was misconstrued. This matter was investigated in detail and the General Sales Agreement with M/s. Hindustan Travel Services was terminated with effect from 30th April, 1986. Subsequently, Air India appointed M/s. Gimvale Ltd., trading as Welcome Travels, as the new GSA in London with effect from November 1986.

Exclusion of Iron preparation from Price Control Order

1917. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 4 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iron Tablets are used for Maternal and Child Health Programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry are purchasing Iron Tablets and other Iron preparations for free distribution under this programme;

(c) if so, what was the amount spent for purchase of these medicines during last three years year-wise alongwith the quantity of Iron preparations purchased during last three years, year-wise in different forms;